

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2954
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON KASHMIR
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has convened a high level meeting to discuss security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the suggestions and observations made at the meeting and the decisions taken therein; and
- (d) the steps since taken to check the deteriorating security scenario in that State and to meet the situation arising from brazen attacks alongwith the strategy adopted to check the suicide squads of militants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): The Prime Minister had convened a High level meeting on Kashmir on 17th January,2000 to discuss Security Scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) & (c): During the meeting, it was decided, inter-alia, that, as a part of strategy to effectively counter terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, it was imperative to raise more specialised forces of the Central Para Military Forces specifically trained for waging counter terrorist operations and also to enhance deployment along the LoC/IB and depth areas. In order to ensure greater synergise of operations amongst various security forces and intelligence agencies, it was decided to divide the CI grid into Sectors as part of a three-tier command and control structure under the UHQ. It was also decided to set-up an additional UHQ for areas north of Zojila. While the State Police and the Intelligence apparatus is already being strengthened, security forces have been asked to adopt a proactive approach against the terrorists in the hinterland and to establish area domination both during day and night. Security in Srinagar city has been beefed up and the security forces have been asked to carry out round-the-clock operations based upon pinpointed intelligence to neutralise terrorist modules in the Border. For protection of civilian population, it has been decided to integrate the Village Defence Committees with the CI grid and to provide them sophisticated arms and modern communication equipment.

(d): To curb terrorism in J&K, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management and neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland. The security forces have been asked to be fully vigilant by taking measures to provide better security around the Camps/Establishments and to be extra alert while on the move on foot or by vehicles.